From: Bill McCroskey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 12:10am
Subject: About the Microsoft Settlement

Dear Justice Department,

In reading the plan for the settlement, I see a great deal of plans for
the problem with middleware, but it appears that Microsoft is being left
to have a monopoly in the desktop operating system market.

If they are allowed to force computer makers to sell all their computers
with Windows if they sell any with Windows then this perpetuates the
monopoly.

There is no doubt they have a monopoly on the "operating system". Look
at how each new release of Windows was sold as "more reliable" -- what a
bill of goods! Name one other product on the market that proves as
problematic for consumers as Windows. If there were fair competition,
Microsoft would be out of business because people would go elsewhere.

If you bought a BrandA car and it was rolling junk and 3 years later
BrandA put out a new model touted as "more reliable" and you bought a
new BrandA model and it also proved to be rolling junk. Would you buy
BrandA again if BrandB was on the market and available to you on equal
terms? No, you would not. Free enterprise, competition, and fair
markets are what makes the system work.

I am writing this e-mail on Linux. If I buy a new PC, it comes with my
very own copy of Windows that I have paid for and can not buy the
machine without. I then must go out and purchase an OS that works and
throw away what I paid for that does not work as well.

I do still have Windows on a second drive on the system because sadly
there are some programs not available on the Linux platform due to the
monopoly held by Microsoft in the Operating Systems. While this is
slowly changing, It would change faster with a level playing field.

If Windows is so good, it should be able to stand on its own merit in
the market place and not have to stand on strongarm tactics to keep it
in first place.

Computer makers should be allowed to offer a computer sold with whatever
  operating system the customer wants. The fact that some portion get
sold with some other system than Windows should be a signal to Microsoft
to clean their house and not to try to crush the computer maker's right
to sell the competing product. That is just plain wrong.

Another concern I have is about security. I am a software engineer and

many of the "backdoor" security problems I see Microsoft having are not just a simple bug in terms of a mistake by a programmer. These backdoors are well engineered avenues into the system. One can only guess as to why they were put there.

I am very concerned that these backdoor entry points to Microsoft Operating Systems represents a threat to national security. Many virus programs have exploited these paths. One can only imagine what would happen if these paths are exploited by terrorist groups. The closed nature of the Windows source code allows this sort of problem to remain hidden. Perhaps if nothing else, the DOD software people should have an audit of Microsoft's code in their operating systems to ensure the security of our nation is not put at risk due to code that serves only Microsoft's interests.

-- William McCroskey